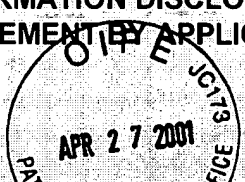


| | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------|
| FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (MODIFIED) U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT  (37 CFR 1.98(b)) | ATTY. DOCKET NO. 97-1804 (99-379-US) | SER. NO. 09/478,702 |
| | APPLICANT VAN TASSEL et al. | |
| | FILING DATE January 6, 2000 | GROUP 1774 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initial | Cite No. ¹ | Patent Number | Issue Date | Patentee | Class/ Subclass | Filing Date |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| <i>WJ</i> | A | 4794048 | Dec. 27, 1988 | OBOODI ET AL. | | |
| <i>AB</i> | B | 5175928 | Jan. 5, 1993 | GRABBE | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION

| Examiner Initial | Document Number | Publication Date | Country or Patent Office | Class/ Subclass | Translation Yes/No |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

OTHER DOCUMENTS

(Including Author, Title, Date, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication)

| Examiner Initial | Cite No. ¹ | |
|------------------|-----------------------|--|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
|-----------|-----------------|
| <i>WJ</i> | <i>2/6/01</i> |

EXAMINER: Initial citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.